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SERVICE

NEWS

ISSUED FOR THE STAFF OF THE SOIL CONSERVATION
SERVICE U. S. D. A. NOT FOR PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION

May 5, 1941



Talking to the State Coordinators and Extension Soil Conservationists of his region the other day, Dr. Tom Buie made a couple of statements that warrant repeating. He was talking about the Southeast, to Southeasterners, but he might have been speaking with equal point to men anywhere in the country.

These aren't his actual words, but Dr. Buie said in essence that the land situation in the Southeast has now become so critical that people must begin cultivating "scraps of land." There isn't enough good land to go around any more. The number of people is growing and the number of productive acres is dwindling. In the future, each productive acre will have to support more and more people. The little "scraps of land" in field corners, along farm lanes, and around the farm house, will have to be pressed into service.

In other words, the cumulative effect of a hundred years or more of progressive soil erosion is finally assuming such proportions that it conditions the agriculture of a vast region. Agriculturally, the Southeast is one of the oldest sections of the country. How long will it be before other, younger, sections will begin to feel the pinch?

Dr. Buie's other statement concerned feeding the farm family and animals on the

farm. Too few of the farms in the Southeast, he said, produce enough food for the farm family table. Some farms produce no table food at all; they are devoted entirely to the production of cotton, tobacco, or corn. They have no gardens growing potatoes, cabbage, beans, strawberries, lettuce, etc. Many have no chickens, hogs, or dairy cows. These farm families buy the things they eat from the grocery store.

And this kind of farming is not confined entirely to the Southeast. It occurs in many parts of the country.

Well, Dr. Buie believes the Soil Conservation Service may be able to do something to help improve this situation. In planning farms for soil conservation, he asks, why can't SCS technicians make provision for a farm garden as well as feed for the farm livestock? It would save the farmer money (because he wouldn't have to buy groceries). It would help the farm family toward a better, more nutritious diet (because the family would have more fresh vegetables and more variety). And altogether, Dr. Buie believes, the result would be a healthier, more nearly self-sufficient farm life.

He doesn't advocate that the SCS go so far as to recommend the kind of vegetables a farmer might put in his garden. The county agents of the Extension Service are better equipped to work with farmers on matters of that kind. But Dr. Buie thinks half the battle may be won at the very beginning if the farmer can be encouraged to establish space for a real garden.

We think Dr. Buie's ideas make good sense.

No. 16
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EXECUTIVE ORDER SETS RAMSPECK LAW IN MOTION

President Roosevelt signed on April 23 the executive order which will set in motion the Ramspeck Law machinery.

The executive order provides that blanketing under civil service shall become effective January 1, 1942. It also provides that those positions becoming vacant between July 1, 1941 and January 1, 1942 will automatically be brought within civil service when they become vacant and will thereafter be filled in accordance with civil service.

As yet instructions on procedure have not been issued by the Civil Service Commission; however, it is expected that the Commission will immediately launch preparations for non-competitive examinations for all office holders covered by the Ramspeck measure and for competitive examinations for all positions which may become vacant after July 1, 1941. As instructions are issued by the Commission, they will be forwarded to the SCS field officials by the Personnel Management Division.

HEALTH LECTURE MAY 23

How to be healthy under pressure, defense pressure or otherwise, will be the theme of a talk by Dr. G. Canby Robinson of Johns Hopkins University Hospital and formerly Dean of Cornell University Medical School, on May 23 at 8:00 p.m. in the Dept. of Agriculture auditorium, under the auspices of Group Health Association. There will be no admission charge.

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Land Acquisition Division is now purchasing land at 26 sites for the War Department and at two sites for the Navy. Authorizations for the acquisition of this land cover approximately 1,000,000 acres for the War Department and 97,000 acres for the Navy.

BLANEY RETURNS FROM CUBAN INSPECTION TRIP

H. F. Blaney, SCS representative in the group of USDA specialists who went to Havana last winter at the invitation of the Cuban Government to study Cuban farming conditions, has returned to California to resume his work as irrigation engineer in Region 10. Enroute home from Cuba, Mr. Blaney stopped in Washington to meet with the other members of the party and prepare their report which will be submitted to the Cuban Government.

While in Cuba, Mr. Blaney devoted the major portion of his time to a study of the rivers of Cuba to see if their waters could be used for supplemental irrigation of rice. He also visited a number of the irrigation projects which are scattered over the island.

Mr. Blaney believes the yield of rice--the national food of Cuba--can be considerably increased by improved agricultural methods. At the present time, Cuba imports 90 percent of the rice consumed by the islanders.

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The SCS has entered into an agreement with the National Youth Administration to cooperate with the Out-Of-School Work Program of the NYA wherever that organization can furnish such services as will be beneficial to our work program.

The Out-Of-School Work Program is designed to provide employment to young people in need of work in the production of goods and services for public agencies. Such employment gives NYA youths work experience necessary in seeking jobs in private industry. To provide training and experience, NYA operates some 4,000 workshops throughout the United States.

In doing work for SCS, the NYA will provide all labor, supervision, and equipment without cost. The Service will furnish such raw materials as are required.

SILTATION THREATENS NATIONAL DEFENSE PLAN

That siltation is a saboteur in the scheme of national defense is the conclusion of civic and Federal officials as the result of a recent reconnaissance investigation of silting in the municipal reservoir of Corpus Christi, Tex., where the Navy Department has just dedicated the new 40-million-dollar naval air base. The investigation was undertaken by Victor H. Jones of the Regional Sedimentation Division in response to a request from the mayor of Corpus Christi to Regional Conservator Merrill. The mayor had acted because the Navy Department had expressed concern over the future water supply for the air base.

The results of the reconnaissance, which can be considered only approximate, indicate a storage loss of more than 20 percent in a little less than seven years, or at an annual rate of almost 3 percent. If these rates are confirmed by a detailed survey, they indicate a situation of immediate concern in national defense. It is probable that unless steps are taken soon to protect this reservoir against excessive silting, a supplementary water supply will be required in 10 or 15 years.

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"Soil Conservation in Puerto Rico," a 1500-word review of the *Soil Conservation* special issue on Puerto Rico, appeared in the Sept.-Dec. issue of the English publication, *Herbage Reviews*, which was recently received in this country. The review on Puerto Rico was written by Dr. R. O. Whyte, editor of the English magazine and deputy director of the Imperial Bureau of Pasture and Forage Crops.

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Children in 12 rural schools within the three soil conservation districts in Winona County, Minn., will plant 2,000 trees this spring to protect their school buildings and playgrounds.

ARKANSAS EDITOR PRAISES SCS WORK

Now and then when a kind word is spoken for a good job done, we feel a glowing warmth in the cockles of the heart. We like to be modest, but the pleasure of being appreciated is increased tenfold if we can share it with others. So we pass on the friendly words of Mrs. Eunice B. C'Baugh, editor of the *Pocahontas (Ark.) Star Herald* about the Tri-River Soil Conservation District. In a letter to the Chief she says:

"I can think of nothing that has come to this area in recent years that has meant so much to us as has the Soil Conservation Service. Its educational, as well as dollars and cents value, cannot be estimated, and I assure you that it has been a privilege for my newspaper to furnish all available publicity.

"The people in this district appreciate, too, the excellent personnel you have here. It is through the cooperation of members of this personnel that we are able to keep our readers informed on activities in the district."

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Construction work has begun on Washington's new \$2,000,000 military airport at the Beltsville Research Center, Md. The new airport will be part of the ring of air defenses around the Capitol, to include two other airports already completed and a possible third still in the discussion stage.

Plans call for a full-fledged military airport at Beltsville with barracks for the men and all necessary buildings and facilities. The airfield will be used jointly by the 121st Observation Squadron and the District National Guard, for whom an armory and a training field with hangars will be constructed, and by the regular Army air corps charged with the defense of the Capitol.

273 SCS MEN NOW ON MILITARY DUTY

"You're in the Army now" is a refrain which applies daily to more and more of SCS personnel. Of course some of our boys are singing "Anchors Aweigh" for the Navy, or "In the Halls of Montezuma" with the Marines--but wherever they may be, the employees on military furlough are becoming increasingly more conspicuous by their absence. On last count 273 Washington and field employees had answered the call to the colors. Here is the list of men who have recently departed on furlough:

WASHINGTON, D.C.: Earl H. Berry, 1st Lt. San Corps Res; Mecislaus S. Chmielewski; John J. Kiracofe; George W. Maxwell; John Patrick Sullivan.

REGION I: Claude C. Custer, 2nd Lt. Inf-Res; Alford LeRoy Hazelton, National Guard; James A. Moulton, Capt. Cav-Res; Michael J. McKnight; David D. Sims.

REGION II: Richard E. Brown, 1st Lt. CA-Res; William A. Capers, Capt. Inf-Res; George M. Clarke, Capt. Inf-Res; John M. Dayton; George B. Hagood, Jr., Capt. Inf-Res; Aubrey N. Holmes, 1st Lt. Engr-Res; John H. Hudson, 1st Lt. Cav-Res; Marshall E. Pruett, 1st Lt. Engr-Res; James H. Wallace, 1st Lt. Inf-Res; George P. Walthall; James H. Witherspoon, 1st Lt. Inf-Res.

REGION III: Joseph Blaha; Marlowe R. Davis; William R. Gardner, 1st Lt. FA-Res; Wayne W. Hollopeter; Frank W. Kearns; William S. Morgan, 2nd Lt. Engr-Res.

REGION IV: Andrew L. Castleman, Capt. Cav-Res; Owen E. Gall; Maurice D. Gamble, 1st Lt. Inf-Res; Gregory M. Leuty, 1st Lt. Inf-Res; Hershel D. Price, 1st Lt. Inf-Res; James B. Robinson, Jr.; William E. Scarborough, 1st Lt. FA-Res.

REGION V: Jay A. Empie; Elmer Frank
(Continued in next column)

DISTRICT STAFF BUILDS MACHINE TO COLOR MAPS

H. C. Lint and his Camburton, N. J., district staff have built a machine complete with flashing lights and buttons to short-cut work on coloring land use capability maps. NYA boys will use it in assisting the Camburton district to color aerial maps for every acre in the district. The SCS staff at Camburton says the machine is three times faster than the old process of using the regular mimeographed chart. The Northeast News--from Region 1--promises to publish details of the machine after the NYA has given it a trial.

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Dr. H. H. Bennett will be the principal speaker at the first annual meeting of the Canadian Conservation Association which will convene at London, Ontario, Canada, on May 9.

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Gahnz, 1st Lt. Sig-Res; Otto L. Hemphill, 1st Lt. FA-Res; George C. Merkel, 1st Lt. FA-Res; Herbert E. Waldeen; Richard P. Weeber, 1st Lt. QM Corps Res

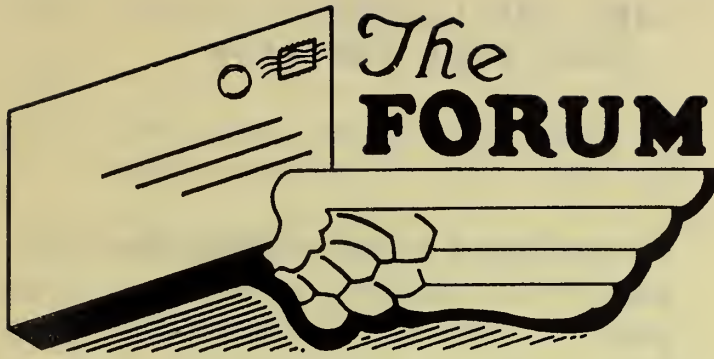
REGION VI: Justin H. Ahern; Ronald Iver Blewitt; Elbert J. Bradley, 1st Lt. FA-Res; Roy D. Crist, 1st Lt. CA-Res; Merle Q. Dannettell, Capt. Chem. Warfare Service Res; Glenn R. Mattox.

REGION VII: None.

REGION VIII: Ashley Harrison; Frank H. Holmes, Jr.; Robert Lucero; Stephen L. Richards; Justin M. Smith, 1st Lt. Cav-Res.

REGION IX: Richard L. Ellarson; Thurman P. Powell, 1st Lt. Inf-Res; Tracy A. Putman; Meader H. Wilkins.

REGION X: Arnold Nowotny.



UNMINCED WORDS

or

Have the Dictionary Handy

EDITOR, SERVICE NEWS: At last you have forced us to defend ourselves. We are a peace loving lot with malice toward none and charity toward all.

We hope that E. L. and J. F. have the intestinal fortitude to take it. However, we rather doubt it from the standpoint that a misanthrope is not prepared to receive the same kind of wares as he has to offer. Further, pusillanimousness is evident in the quat personages mentioned above when one openly aspires to the exalted position of a district conservationist and the other has the impertinence to proclaim, "Shame!" What bumptiousness on the one hand and what covetousness and envy on the other.

Incomprehensible as it may appear, E. L. and J. F. undoubtedly believe that because they have mentalities of inferior quality, like all raving, ungovernable people, they believe all farmers and others are inferior to themselves. That the caducous minds of these persons might (in the cause of charity) be bolstered, we offer pertinent facts that should, if it is possible to permeate the marmoreal craniums of E. L. and J. F., elucidate the eloquence in question.

The Chairman of the Board of Supervisors of the Mulberry-Piney Soil Conservation District is a gentleman of impeccable character and integrity; of such high breeding that the application of cynicism is beneath his powers of contemplation.

During the period of the Chairman's adolescence, he attained his education to such proportions as to qualify him to manage several large businesses which he owns and had conducted successfully. The Chairman has proved himself to be a success in a private enterprise. The Chairman is also president of the Board of Directors of the Arkansas Polytechnic College, Chairman of the Board of Trustees of the College of the Ozarks, and last but not least, chairman of the Board of Directors of the Arkansas State Forestry Commission, a gentleman quite capable of the phraseology over which the Service "Cut-ups" find so much amusement. Is there any reason why this gentleman should not use language in keeping with his dignity, or should he use "aints" and other bad language in conformity with the manners of E. L. and J. F.

The Secretary of the Board of Supervisors, an honorable, mature man, also a successful business man and farmer, is a graduate of a college of high standing who learned at college, above all things, to conduct himself in manner so as to disparage no one.

The other members of the Board of Supervisors are fine upstanding citizens who think enough of their country and are patriotic enough to serve their fellow men without remuneration and as such are qualified to write as intelligent men.

Like all boards of supervisors, it was the privilege of the Board of Supervisors of the Mulberry-Piney Soil Conservation District to request the aid of other agencies in gathering data for their Program and Plan of Work. In such a capacity, a representative of the United States Forest Service and of the Arkansas State Forestry Commission, together with a forestry representative of the Soil Conservation Service, were called upon to make recommendations for the forestry part of the Program. We realize that foresters are much better educated people than most of the garden

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THE FORUM

(Continued from page 5)

variety of agriculturists and they may have been responsible. However, Arkansas is blessed with a very intelligent leadership as is exemplified by the fact that Arkansas was the first state in the Union to adopt the District Law. I've got you there boy!

As editor of the Service News you seem to have taken no action to limit the number of punches taken at us so, if this shoe fits you you can wear it too. You probably will not print this as evidently you are biased.

We have enjoyed meeting you.

F.W.G.

EDITOR, SERVICE NEWS: The issue of the "Service News" dated March 26, 1941, No. 13, has an article concerning efficiency ratings. There appears to be a discrepancy about professional and clerical personnel in grades 1 to 11 being rated on the same elements.

The most recent Departmental Manual on efficiency ratings, dated March 1941, states at the bottom of Page 4:

"Civil Service Commission Form 3200 will be used to rate the efficiency of employees occupying positions in the custodial service, the sub-professional service, and in grades 1 to 8, inclusive, in the clerical, administrative, and fiscal service. Civil Service Commission Form 3201 will be used to rate the efficiency of employees occupying positions allocated to grades 1 to 7 in the professional and scientific services and grades 9 to 14, inclusive, in the clerical, administrative, and fiscal service."

I wish to call to your attention the following quotation from the first column

(Continued in next column)

LAND USE COLORS

HELP SELL THE FARM

This advertisement appeared in the Faribault, Minn., Daily News recently.

"FOR SALE or rent: A Hobby-farm--40 A. with 10 A. woodlot, 10 A. field rated 'green' by SCS, spring water, 26 A. pasture; small set buildings, 7 mi. from Faribault on Cannon City road. Write Ralph McCartney, Mora, Minn."

It is the first time we have seen land use capability colors mentioned in advertising.

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One of the interesting developments in connection with soil conservation districts is the manner in which supervisors tackle some of their educational problems. In the West Ottawa District in Michigan the supervisors hired a local photographer to make some pictures needed for educational work. Now a neighboring district--South Muskegon--plans to record a story of its problems and methods of solution by making a short movie in Kodachrome. In both instances the supervisors are purchasing the film and meeting other incidental expenses.

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on the front page of this issue of the "Service News": "Furthermore, since all professional employees, as well as clerical personnel in grades 1 to 11, are rated on the same elements, ..."

An example of the difference in these forms can easily be observed by noting the elements under "Quality of Performance" on Form 3200 and those under "Quality of Performance" on Form 3201. On Form 3201, element "d" pertains to original contributions to method or knowledge. This element is not listed on Form 3200.

H.H.G.

FIELD MEMORANDA

- 1000 Transportation of employees household goods and personal effects. (Quotes Public No. 839--76th Congress, which provides for uniformity of allowances for transportation of household goods of employees transferred from one official station to another for permanent duty.)
- 1001 Restrictions on use and distribution of aerial photographs covering military or naval installations of importance.
- 872-C Political activity. (Lists amendments to Personnel Circular No. 34, Supplement No. 1.)
- 880-A Correction in date of F. M. 880-A.
- 1002 Organization for the operation phase of field work. (Guide to organization of the technical operations phase of field activities--exclusive of research and flood control surveys--and to the allocation and classification of positions in the field service below the regional office level.)
- 904-K 1. Effective dates of military furloughs. 2. Physical examinations for military furloughs. 3. Temporary employees not entitled to military furloughs.
- 1003 Employee activities concerning farm organizations. (Quotes memorandum from Secretary Wickard setting forth limits for all USDA employees in participating in activities concerned with establishing or recruiting members for general farm organizations.

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The first soil conservation districts law was passed by Arkansas in the summer of 1937.

FARMER MASSINGER SAYS
"THANK YOU" IN THE PRESS

Mr. and Mrs. Fred Massinger of Franklin County, Nebr., were so pleased with the conservation work done on their farm by the CCC boys from the nearby camp they decided to make public acknowledgement in the Franklin County Sentinel. The following announcement was placed in the paper and paid for by farmer Massinger without the knowledge of Camp SCS-17.

"This is to express our gratitude and satisfaction with Soil Conservation work done by the local CCC boys on our farm to date.

"A very neat water spreading system was worked out on the pasture land, that helps hold back surplus rain fall and in this way helps to restore the grass, and on our home farm, tree plots have been worked out and other control measures which help conserve the soil and restore trees. We find the boys ambitious and considerate. We feel sure any farmer desiring this kind of improvement work will be more than satisfied.

"Farmers should, by all means, get their farms lined up for this work at once as it's indeed a privilege to get this work done.

Gratefully submitted,
Mr. and Mrs. Fred Massinger."

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The Census Bureau reports that there are fewer sharecroppers now than at any time in the last two decades. The 1940 census found 541,291 sharecroppers in sixteen States, 234,987 less than in 1930. The decline was attributed to increased use of power machinery, which caused some landlords to discontinue leasing part of their land, and to programs assisting sharecroppers to buy their land. Mississippi led in this type of farming, its 125,483 sharecroppers being more than double those in any State

PRINTERS' INK

"What Does Soil Saving Cost?" by C. R. Enlow, Chief of the Agronomy Division, in the *May Country Gentleman*.

Secretary Wickard writes on "Conservation, A Lasting Emergency" in the April *Land Policy Review*.

"Erosion Control by Cover Crops" by J.C. Johnston of University of California and C. B. Ahlson, Chief of the Regional Agronomy Division at Berkeley, in the April *California Citrograph*.

"The Utilization of Russian Thistle by Wildlife" by W. S. Long, biologist at Salt Lake City, Utah, in April *Journal of Wildlife Management*.

"Broomsedge as a Food for Wildlife" by Verne E. Davison of Spartanburg, S. C., and William R. Van Dersal of Washington Biology Division, in April *Journal of Wildlife Management*.

A tribute to William Claude Kelley, SCS area biologist at Jackson, Miss., who died July 3, 1940, appears in the April *Journal of Wildlife Management*.

"Equipment for Terrace Construction" by J. T. McAlister, Head of the Regional Equipment Section at Spartanburg, S. C., in the April *Agricultural Engineering*.

"Planning the Farm for Soil and Water Conservation" by W. R. O'Brien--first of a series by the author--in the March 29 issue of *The Michigan Farmer*.

"Southern Farmers Want More CCC-SCS Projects"--first of a series of articles--in April 19 issue of *Happy Days*.

V. T. Stoutemyer, W. L. Giles, and S. B. Detwiler have written for the April *Journal of Forestry* a review of the publication "Vegetative Propagation of Conifers" by Carl G. Deuber.

OFF THE PRESS

"A Combination Suspended-Load Sampler and Velocity Meter for Small Streams" by Alvin G. Anderson. Circular No. 599.

"Conservation Practices for the Range Lands of the Southern Great Plains" by J. S. McCorkle and Tom Dale, in collaboration with other specialists of SCS. Unnumbered Publication.

"Conservation Farming for the Hard Lands of the Southern Great Plains" by Tom Dale in collaboration with subject-matter specialists. Unnumbered Publication.

"Report of the Wildlife Conservation Work of the Soil Conservation Service." Statement prepared by the Biology Division for the Special Committee of the United States Senate on the Conservation of Wildlife Resources.

"Erosion and Related Land Use Conditions in Winona County, Minnesota" by Mark H. Brown and Iver J. Nygard. Erosion Survey No. 17.

"Wildlife Management Through Soil Conservation on Farms in the Northeast" by Frank C. Edminster. Farmers Bulletin No. 1868.

SERVICE LIBRARY MOVES

The Service Library has moved from the fifth to the fourth wing of the South Building. Room 1409 is the main entrance.

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"The World and the People of Cundiyo" by Ernest E. Maes of the Regional Division of Economic Surveys at Albuquerque appears in the March *Land Policy Review*.

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In an attempt to create at least a small rubber industry in Mexico, the USDA, in cooperation with the Mexican Government, has started an experimental nursery at Palmar in the Veracruz Province.